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Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 12 of page 9 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The tampon pledge of the present invention has its insertion end recessed into the center of the pledge, and is crimped or compressed to a certain extent for insertion into a tampon applicator. The compression should be just enough so that the tampon pledge is "spring-loaded" in the tampon applicator. Once ejected from the tampon applicator, the tampon pledge will expand rapidly preferably into a bell-like shape configuration, as represented generally by reference numeral 10 in Fig. 1. The tip or top 12 of this bell-shaped pledge 10 has the removal string 14 secured to it, while the other end of the tampon pledge 10 forms the base 16 of the bell.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

A3 Sub C1

1. (Amended) A dry expanding tampon pledge comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together, and

wherein immediately after ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledge

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has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than just prior to ejection.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

A4

Sub C1] 12. (Amended) The tampon pledge of claim 1, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers is a combination of rayon and superabsorbent fiber, and wherein a ratio of rayon fiber to superabsorbent fiber is about 70/30.

A5

Sub C1] 16. (Amended) A dry expanding tampon pledge comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are distributed together,

wherein a percent ratio of said plurality of non-absorbent fibers to said plurality of absorbent fibers is about 25/75 to about 65/35, and

wherein immediately after ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledge has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than just prior to ejection.